



# A Message from **Mayor Sharpe James**

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**NINTH STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**

**HONORABLE SHARPE JAMES, MAYOR**

**CITY OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY**

**JANUARY 25, 1995**



*Together, we can make a difference!*

## 1995 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

REVEREND CLERGY, MS. CATHERINE CECERE, OUR MISTRESS OF CEREMONY; OUR NEW ESSEX COUNTY EXECUTIVE JIM TREFFINGER, RE-ELECTED ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF ARMANDO FONTOURA, NEWLY ELECTED ESSEX COUNTY REGISTER CAROL GRAVES; CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COUNTY OFFICIALS AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU. TO COUNCIL PRESIDENT, DONALD BRADLEY; HON. MEMBERS OF THE NEWARK MUNICIPAL COUNCIL; DEPUTY MAYORS NARVAEZ AND SANTIAGO; BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR GLENN GRANT; MEMBERS OF THE JAMES ADMINISTRATION, GOOD EVENING AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR VALUED ATTENDANCE TONIGHT. THIS IS MY NINTH STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS.

AND IT COMES AT A TIME WHEN THE HUE AND CRY ACROSS THE NATION IS FOR POLITICAL REFORM, FOR SMALLER GOVERNMENT, FOR LOWER TAXES, FOR A BALANCED BUDGET, FOR PUBLIC SAFETY, FOR WELFARE REFORM AND FOR RUNNING GOVERNMENT AS A BUSINESS. A HUE AND CRY TO MAKE GOVERNMENT WORK.

ALL OF US IN THIS ROOM TONIGHT -- THE CLERGY, COUNTY EXECUTIVE, MAYORS, COUNCIL MEMBERS, FREEHOLDERS, COMMISSIONERS, BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS, DISTRICT LEADERS, BLOCK LEADERS AND MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATORS -- ARE A TALENTED, COMMITTED, HARD WORKING, DIVERSE AND ENERGETIC MOSAIC OF PEOPLE. AS YOU LOOK AROUND THIS ROOM TONIGHT, YOU SEE AMERICA AT ITS BEST. AND, WE HAVE THE AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY OF MOVING OUR CITY FORWARD TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY, CHALLENGES THAT WILL PREPARE OUR CITY FOR

PARTICIPATING IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY. IN THIS EMERGING ECONOMY, WE WILL FACE COMPETITION THAT IS BOTH LOCAL AND GLOBAL.

AND FOR US AT THE LOCAL LEVEL HERE IN THE CITY OF NEWARK, THERE IS NO BETTER TIME TO EXAMINE THE CHALLENGES OF LEADERSHIP THAN IN THE SHADOW OF THE NOVEMBER, MID-TERM ELECTIONS. A TIME WHEN THE MOOD WAS CLEARLY AGAINST THOSE SEEKING RE-ELECTION AND THE HUE AND CRY WAS "WE WANT A CHANGE," A REVOLUTION, OR "KICK THEM OUT OF OFFICE." "WE WANT TERM LIMITATIONS" OR "WE JUST DON'T TRUST POLITICIANS ANYMORE." ALL AN EXPRESSION OF VOTER ANGER AND VOTER DISSATISFACTION WITH THE POLITICAL PROCESS. AND THEIR ANGER WAS NOT JUST LIMITED TO DEMOCRATS! FOR EXAMPLE, HERE IN ESSEX COUNTY, EXECUTIVE JIM TREFFINGER WON AS A REPUBLICAN AND ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF AND REGISTER, FONTOURA AND GRAVES, WON AS DEMOCRATS. NOW THEY MUST WORK TOGETHER AS DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS IN MOVING THE COUNTY FORWARD.

WHAT OUR CITIZENS WANT IS LESS RHETORIC AND MORE ACTION; LESS PROMISES AND MORE RESULTS. THEY ARE TIRED OF "BUSINESS AS USUAL" POLITICS. THEY ARE TIRED OF SEEMINGLY OUT-OF-CONTROL SPENDING. THEY ARE TIRED OF PAYING FOR GOVERNMENT'S MISTAKES AND GOVERNMENT'S PERKS. IN FACT, THEY ARE JUST PLAIN SICK AND TIRED OF GOVERNMENT, PERIOD!

AND SO TONIGHT I AM HERE TO REAFFIRM THAT WE HAVE MADE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN NEW JERSEY'S LARGEST CITY. I AM HERE TO REAFFIRM THAT WE HAVE RESTORED HOPE AND PRIDE IN OUR CITY AND OUR FUTURE IS MUCH BRIGHTER THAN BEFORE I TOOK OFFICE. I

AM HERE TO REAFFIRM THAT THE JAMES ADMINISTRATION IS STILL COMMITTED TO GOOD GOVERNMENT AND IN HELPING PEOPLE. A BELIEF IN A HEALTHY, FISCALLY SOUND, CULTURALLY ENRICHED AND GROWING NEWARK. A NEWARK WHERE OUR SKYLINE IS CHANGING, A NEWARK WHERE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS ARE CHANGING, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE AS A PEOPLE ARE CHANGING IN OUR VISION AND ATTITUDES. A BELIEF IN MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE. A BELIEF IN A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE.

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, PRESIDENT CLINTON, THE NEW SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE NEWT GINGRICH AND SENATE PRESIDENT BOB DOLE HAVE CALLED FOR ADDRESSING THE NATIONAL BUDGET DEFICIT, A CALL FOR DOWNSIZING OF THE FEDERAL WORK FORCE, LOWER TAXES, WELFARE REFORM, CREATING JOBS AND INCREASED PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AMONG OTHER PROPOSALS. THE GOP LEADERSHIP NOW IN CONTROL OF THE HOUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FORTY YEARS, HAS PROMISED TO IMPLEMENT ITS CONTRACT FOR AMERICA. GOVERNOR CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN HAS KEPT HER PROMISE FOR A 30% TAX CUT AND THE DOWNSIZING OF STATE GOVERNMENT.

AND HERE IN NEWARK WE HAVE KEPT OUR EYES ON THE PRIZE ALSO. WE ARE AHEAD OF THE CURRENT NATIONAL TREND. WE HAVE ALREADY HAD OUR REVOLUTION. WE HAVE ALREADY HAD OUR DARK DAYS; WE HAVE HAD OUR REFORM. AND NOW WITH HELP FROM THE FEDERAL, STATE AND COUNTY GOVERNMENTS, WITH HELP FROM THE CITIZENS, THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, CLERGY AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, NEWARK CAN BE A TRUE MODEL CITY. A CITY THAT ONCE WAS DOWN AND IS NOW LOOKING UP. A CITY HAVING A RENAISSANCE. A CITY WITH A VISION FOR BETTER TOMORROWS. THE LEADING CITY IN NEW JERSEY IN BANKING, INSURANCE, TRANSPORTATION, MEDICAL CARE, COLLEGE STUDENTS AND THE ARTS. YES, THE PHOENIX RISES AGAIN!

DURING MY TENURE AS MAYOR, THE CITY OF NEWARK HAS ALREADY ADDRESSED AND CLOSED A \$30 MILLION DOLLAR BUDGET GAP AND A \$42 MILLION DOLLAR SHORTFALL. THE CITY OF NEWARK HAS ALREADY REDUCED ITS MUNICIPAL WORKFORCE. THE CITY OF NEWARK WAS ONE OF THE FIRST IN THE NATION TO INTRODUCE THE CONCEPT OF PRIVATIZATION OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES IN ORDER TO REDUCE MUNICIPAL COSTS. THE CITY OF NEWARK WITH OUR ACTIVE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING (M.O.E.T.) AND OUR PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL (P.I.C.) PROGRAMS HAS ENCOURAGED "WORKFARE" AS OPPOSED TO "WELFARE."

WE HAVE EMBRACED A NEW PHILOSOPHY THAT SEEKS PARITY AND NOT CHARITY. A NEW PHILOSOPHY THAT RECOGNIZES THE NEED TO END A DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBER OF OUR CITIZENS WHO DEPEND ON WELFARE IN SEEKING THE AMERICAN DREAM, WHICH WE KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE WILL BECOME AN IMPOSSIBLE DREAM. WE, THEREFORE, ARE COMMITTED TO CREATING JOB OPPORTUNITIES AS OPPOSED TO OFFERING WELFARE AS A CAREER; WELFARE AS A LIFESTYLE.

FOR WE KNOW THAT ONLY THROUGH A STRONG WORK ETHIC HAVE WE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE PROGRESS IN THE CITY OF NEWARK. AND IT HAS NOT BEEN EASY. WE ARE PROUD THAT OUR DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT AND THE NEWARK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (N.E.D.C.) HAVE RECRUITED AND RELOCATED NEW BUSINESSES IN THE CITY OF NEWARK CREATING NEW JOBS AND NEW TAX RATABLES. WE ARE PROUD THAT THROUGH A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT, WE HAVE FORMED THE BEST OF PRIVATE/PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS RESPONSIBLE FOR A \$150 MILLION UNDER CONSTRUCTION NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER. WE ARE PROUD THAT NEW SAFE, DECENT AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS BEING BUILT IN EVERY WARD OF OUR CITY.

IN 1995, WE WILL FINALLY START CONSTRUCTION OF THE SOUTH WARD INDUSTRIAL PARK, A JOINT CITY, NHA, NEDC MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING LOW RENTAL PUBLIC HOUSING, TOWNHOUSE STYLE HOMES AND A LABOR INTENSIVE, HIGH TECH MANUFACTURING FACILITY. THIS YEAR WE ARE PROUD OF OUR NEW RECREATION AND CULTURAL FACILITIES, NEIGHBORHOOD MINI MALLS, A NEW PATHMARK, STATE-OF-THE-ART MOVIE THEATERS, A NEW ROLLER SKATING RINK TO OPEN THIS YEAR, A PROPOSED \$5 MILLION SPORTSWORLD (WHICH WILL OPEN AS A NEWARK ENTERTAINMENT EDUCATION CENTER), NEW DOWNTOWN CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS, NEW RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS, A \$13 MILLION DOLLAR NEW ARCHDIOCESE HEADQUARTERS DESIGNED BY MICHAEL GRAVES, A NEW SETON HALL LAW SCHOOL AND ONE NEWARK CENTER, THE REHABILITATION OF THE NEWARK MUSEUM'S BALLANTINE HOUSE AND THE EXPANSION OF OUR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

MANY OF US DO REALIZE THAT NEWARK IS A COLLEGE TOWN HOSTING 35,000 STUDENTS DAILY. ADDED TO THIS LIST IS ALSO A PROPOSED SCIENCE PARK AND CONVENTION CENTER. ALSO, CONSTRUCTION SHOULD START SOON FOR THE LONG AWAITED IRONBOUND SWIMMING POOL. AND, WE PLAN TO ADD A HIGHLY INNOVATIVE IRONBOUND NEIGHBORHOOD SOCCER FIELD.

JUST THINK OF THE NEW NEWARK WHEN THE \$150 MILLION NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (N.J.P.A.C.) WILL LIGHT UP OUR DOWNTOWN AND BRING THE WORLD'S GREATEST ARTISTS TO OUR CITY. AND TO ASSIST THE NJPAC, WE PLAN TO ADD A \$25 MILLION JOSEPH G. MINISH RIVERFRONT PARK PROJECT. JUST THINK OF THE NEW EXCITING CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES, NEW JOBS, A NEW DOWNTOWN IMAGE AND NEW HOPE FOR OUR CITIZENS. BUT THIS DREAM WAS NOT AN EASY ONE AND WE WISH TO SALUTE

GOVERNORS KEAN, FLORIO AND OUR CURRENT GOVERNOR CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN FOR MAKING THIS DREAM COME TRUE REQUIRING THE VISION, SUPPORT AND COURAGE OF ALL THREE GOVERNORS. WE SALUTE THEM FOR PROMOTING URBAN AND SUBURBAN GROWTH IN MAKING NEW JERSEY WHOLE AS CALLED FOR IN THE NEW JERSEY MASTER PLAN. NOT URBAN VS. SUBURBAN OR SUBURBAN VS. URBAN, BUT ONE NEW JERSEY, ONE FAMILY.

LIKEWISE, WE ARE PROUD THAT AFTER MANY YEARS OF WAITING, GROUND HAS BEEN BROKEN FOR THE FIRST PHASE OF CONSTRUCTION FOR A MODERN, STATE-OF-THE-ART NEW JERSEY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL ON THE CAMPUS OF UNITED HOSPITALS. WE WISH TO CONGRATULATE UNITED HOSPITALS CEO JOHN DANDRIDGE AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD BERNARD RABINOWITZ FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

AND EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN AND IMPROVE OUR QUALITY OF LIFE, OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT IS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY POLICING. WE HAVE ADDED NEW MOBILE COMMAND UNITS, A SPECIAL ANTI-AUTO THEFT TARGET SQUAD AND MORE FOOT PATROL OFFICERS WHO ARE YOUNGER AND MORE ENERGETIC IN NEIGHBORHOOD POLICING. WE ARE PROUD OF THE CITY'S NEW STATE OF THE ART POLICE FIRE ARMS TRAINING FACILITY. AND I WILL NOT TELL YOU WHO WON WHEN THE MAYOR AND POLICE DIRECTOR CELESTER HAD A FIRING CONTEST ON OPENING DAY. HE HAD BEEN PRACTICING EVERY DAY AND I HAD LAST FIRED A WEAPON IN 1960 IN GERMANY. NOW WHO DO YOU THINK WON WITH 13 ROUNDS IN THE TARGET?

ON A MORE SERIOUS NOTE, I AM PLEASED THAT THE PRESIDENT HONORED ME FOR MY WORK IN SUPPORT OF THE PASSAGE OF THE NATIONAL CRIME BILL.

LAST YEAR WE RECEIVED FUNDING FOR 24 POLICE OFFICERS, AND THIS YEAR WE WILL RECEIVE FUNDING FOR AN ADDITIONAL 29 OFFICERS. FOR 1995 WE PLAN TO PUT THE LARGEST CLASS EVER OF RECRUITS IN THE CITY'S HISTORY INTO OUR POLICE ACADEMY, WE WILL ENROLL 180 NEW RECRUITS AT THE SAME TIME BY CONDUCTING DAY AND NIGHT CLASSES. THIS IS REAL PROOF THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE PUBLIC SAFETY OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY. THIS IS PROOF THAT WE WILL WAGE A REAL WAR AGAINST CRIME AND DRUGS. PROOF THAT WE WILL NOT SURRENDER ONE HOUSE, STREET OR NEIGHBORHOOD TO LAW BREAKERS. WE NEED TO PLACE MORE VALUE ON LIFE AND THE LIVING. THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH CELEBRATING A GOOD LIFE AT A FUNERAL, HOWEVER, WE SHOULD STOP KILLING ONE ANOTHER AND VALUE LIFE AS WELL.

WE MUST RESPECT ONE ANOTHER. WE MUST OBEY OUR LAWS. WE MUST BE A CITY THAT WE CAN LIVE IN PEACE AND HARMONY.

AS PART OF NEWARK'S FINEST, OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT IS IMPLEMENTING TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS WHILE RECEIVING NEW STATE OF THE ART EQUIPMENT. IN 1995 WE WILL START CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW FIREHOUSE. IN 1994, THE NEWARK FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONDED TO 2,486 STRUCTURAL AND AUTO FIRES. WE WERE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO SEE A DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF DEATHS, GOING FROM 14 IN 1993 TO ONLY 8 IN 1994. THIS FIGURE IS THE LOWEST NUMBER OF FATALITIES DUE TO FIRES IN OVER A DECADE. WHILE CONTINUING OUR STRATEGIC DEPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL, WE WERE ABLE TO MAINTAIN OUR SUPERIOR LEVEL OF RESPONSE, TO ABOUT THREE MINUTES WHICH IS WELL BELOW THE NATIONALLY ACCEPTED AVERAGE OF FIVE.

ON A RATHER SAD NOTE HOWEVER, LAST YEAR WE LOST A BRAVE FIREFIGHTER, MICHAEL DELANEY, AND HIS PARTNER, JUAN RAMOS WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED WHILE FIGHTING A FIRE; TWO BRAVE MEN WHO PLACED THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE IN SERVING THE PUBLIC. ONE WHO PAID THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE AND WE AGAIN WISH TO EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCE TO FIREFIGHTER MICHAEL DELANEY'S WIFE AND FAMILY. HE DIED SO THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE.

AND WHILE OUR POLICE AND FIRE PERSONNEL PLACE THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE EACH AND EVERY DAY IN THE LINE OF DUTY. WE NEED THE HELP AND COOPERATION OF EVERY PARENT, EVERY CITIZEN, YOUNG AND OLD TO MAKE NEWARK A BETTER CITY IN WHICH TO LIVE. FOR GOVERNMENT CAN NOT DO IT ALONE. GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS. FOR CRIME, DRUGS, AUTO THEFT, DOING DONUTS, GRAFFITI AND DEBRIS LINING OUR STREETS AND VACANT LOTS IS MORE AN INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY THAN A GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY. WE NEED MORE INDIVIDUAL PRIDE AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY IF WE TRULY WANT A SAFER AND CLEANER NEWARK.

OUR NEW DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DIRECTOR MARSHALL COOPER SIMPLY CAN'T FOLLOW EVERY CITIZEN AROUND WITH A BROOM, PLASTIC BAGS OR A POOPER SCOOPER AND CLEAN UP BEHIND THEM. YOU THE CITIZENS OF NEWARK MUST NOT LITTER, YOU THE CITIZENS OF NEWARK MUST KEEP YOUR PROPERTY CLEAN WHETHER AS A PROPERTY OWNER OR AS A TENANT. YOU THE CITIZENS OF NEWARK MUST BEAUTIFY AND IMPROVE YOUR STREETS AND NEIGHBORHOODS. AND IT STARTS TONIGHT WITH EACH OF US IN THIS ROOM AND OUR TELEVISION AUDIENCE. LET US WHO

CARE ABOUT NEWARK TRY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. LET US LIVE THE DREAM OF THE LATE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AS OPPOSED TO A ONE DAY CELEBRATION, VACATION OR PARTY.

WHAT WE REALLY NEED IS A SPIRITUAL RENAISSANCE AND THE STRENGTHENING OF THE FAMILY. IT IS TIME NOT ONLY TO TALK THE TALK, BUT TO WALK THE WALK. WE CAN BUILD ALL THE STRUCTURES IN THE WORLD, CREATE NEW JOBS AND ADD MORE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES. BUT IF WE DO NOT STRESS MORAL TRAINING, KNOWING RIGHT FROM WRONG, RESPECTING THE RIGHTS AND PROPERTY OF OTHERS, AND ENDING DRUG ABUSE, PROGRESS WILL NOT BE A REALITY. WE WILL ALL HAVE TO STAY UP ALL NIGHT WATCHING OUR CARS, LIVING WITH THREE LOCKS ON THE DOOR AND A 95 LB. GERMAN SHEPHERD. THIS NIGHTMARE MUST END.

IT IS UP TO EACH OF US TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. A WISE MAN ONCE ASKED IS THE GLASS HALF EMPTY OR HALF FULL? NOT TO CRITICIZE BUT TO HELP, NOT CONFRONTATION BUT COOPERATION. NOT HOSTILITY BUT RESPECT AND LOVE. NOT TO TURN AGAINST ONE ANOTHER, BUT TO TURN TOWARD ONE ANOTHER. TO HELP ONE ANOTHER.

ON THE IMPORTANT ISSUE OF EDUCATION, ROBERT BRAUN, A RENOWNED WRITER FOR THE STAR-LEDGER, RECENTLY WROTE THAT MAYOR SHARPE JAMES WAS AGAINST A STATE TAKEOVER OF THE NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS. TONIGHT I WANT TO PUBLICLY ANSWER HIM BY SAYING THAT HE IS 200% CORRECT AND NOTHING SINCE HAS CHANGED MY MIND TO GIVE CONTROL OF OUR CHILDREN TO THE STATE.

ONE BASIC REASON IS THAT STATE TAKEOVER OF THE SCHOOLS IN JERSEY CITY AND PATERSON HAS FAILED. WE ALL KNOW THAT. JUST ASK MAYOR SCHUNDLER OF JERSEY CITY WHO IS PUSHING FOR A VOUCHER SYSTEM TO CORRECT THE ILLS OF STATE TAKEOVER. BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, ROBERT BRAUN OF THE LEDGER FAILED TO SAY THAT FOR THE LAST EIGHT YEARS I HAVE CONSISTENTLY ADVOCATED TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION, A HIGHLY INNOVATIVE PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD HAVE FIVE ELECTED BOARD OF EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVES, ONE FROM EACH OF NEWARK'S FIVE WARDS, AND FOUR MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR AND CONFIRMED BY THE CITY COUNCIL.

THIS INNOVATIVE METHOD OF SELECTING BOARD MEMBERS WOULD BE THE FIRST IN THE NATION. THIS PLAN WOULD CLEARLY PROVIDE A CHECK AND BALANCE SYSTEM FOR THE OVERSIGHT OF OUR PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM AND WOULD FREE UP THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FROM BEING HELD HOSTAGE BY AN ALL-APPOINTED OR AN ALL-ELECTED BODY. I ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTIONS BE MOVED TO COINCIDE WITH THE COUNTY, COUNCIL OR GENERAL ELECTION TO INCREASE THE PRESENT HORRIBLE 7-9% VOTER PARTICIPATION IN BOARD ELECTIONS.

WE THE CITIZENS OF NEWARK SUPPORT A CALL FOR GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY IN OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM, WE SUPPORT THE CALL FOR IMPROVED LEARNING, WE SUPPORT THE CALL TO END POLITICAL AND PERSONAL ABUSES. BUT MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, WE WANT TO STRENGTHEN AND IMPROVE PUBLIC EDUCATION IN OUR CITY WITH LOCAL PARTICIPATION, WITH LOCAL INPUT AND WITH LOCAL GUIDANCE FROM THE MOTHERS AND FATHERS OF OUR SCHOOL CHILDREN. MY PLAN CALLS FOR REFORM AND A CHECK AND BALANCE SYSTEM WITHOUT GIVING OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM AWAY. WE DO NOT NEED A STATE

TAKEOVER, WHAT WE NEED IS A COMMUNITY TAKEOVER. WE NEED THE PARENTS TO BECOME MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR CHILDREN AND ABOUT THEIR EDUCATION.

WE NEED TO TURN OFF THE TELEVISION SET, STOP BUYING VIDEOS AND LEARN WHAT OUR CHILDREN ARE NOT LEARNING IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM AT A COST OF \$10,000 PER PUPIL. WE NEED A SCHOOL WAKE UP CALL. WE NEED A COMMUNITY TAKEOVER.

ON THE MATTER OF HEALTH CARE, THE CITY'S RYAN WHITE AIDS UNIT RECENTLY WAS AWARDED \$5.5 MILLION IN FORMULA FUNDING FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. MY ADMINISTRATION HAS WORKED DILIGENTLY TO OVERCOME PAST PROBLEMS WITH THE PROGRAM AND HAS IMPLEMENTED MEASURES TO UPGRADE SERVICES TO THE NEWARK COMMUNITY AND THE ELIGIBLE METROPOLITAN AREA. THIS PROGRAM HAS ALLOWED US TO REACH MORE CITIZENS AFFECTED BY AIDS AND WE ARE WAGING A MORE MEANINGFUL BATTLE AGAINST THIS FATAL VIRUS. WE WILL DO ALL WE CAN TO HELP THIS SUFFERING POPULATION LIVE WITH DIGNITY AND HOPE.

OTHER GOOD NEWS IS THAT IN THE PAST YEAR OUR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS IMMUNIZED MORE INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN AGAINST CHILDHOOD DISEASES THAN AT ANY OTHER TIME IN OUR CITY'S HISTORY AND WILL CONTINUE THESE INOCULATIONS IN 1995.

WE ARE PROUD THAT THE NHA IS THE ONLY MAJOR HOUSING AUTHORITY IN AMERICA TO BE REMOVED FROM HUD'S LIST OF TROUBLED AGENCIES. ALSO THE NEWARK HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS ANNOUNCED PLANS TO DEMOLISH TWO MORE APARTMENT BUILDINGS AT COLUMBUS HOMES. THEY DESERVE A HAND!

ALSO IN 1995, WE WILL CONTINUE OUR MOST ACTIVE SISTER CITY PROGRAMS WITH XUZHOU IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND NASSAU AND FREEPORT IN THE BAHAMAS.

AND ON A VERY POSITIVE NOTE FROM ZINNERFORD SMITH, DIRECTOR OF THE NEWARK WATERSHED CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, THE AGENCY HAS AGREED TO RETURN \$2 MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE SALE OF WATERSHED PROPERTY TO THE CITY TO ASSIST IN BALANCING OUR 1995 BUDGET.

HAVING HELD COSTS DOWN BY DOWNSIZING THE WORK FORCE, THROUGH ATTRITION AND BY GOOD FISCAL MANAGEMENT.

WE WILL BE PRESENTING THE 1995 MUNICIPAL BUDGET AS SOON AS CONFIRMATION ON STATE AID IS RECEIVED IN EARLY FEBRUARY. AT THIS BUDGET PLANNING STAGE THE PROJECTED TAX RATE WILL BE NO MORE THAN A 3% INCREASE. AND I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THERE WILL BE NO WATER RATE INCREASE FOR 1995. THEREFORE, NEWARK'S AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL HOMEOWNERS WILL PAY ABOUT \$75 DOLLARS MORE ANNUALLY OR JUST \$6 DOLLARS A MONTH MORE THAN THEY PAID IN 1994. NEWARK RESIDENTS WILL CONTINUE TO ENJOY THE LOWEST TAX AND WATER PAYMENTS IN ESSEX COUNTY.

THIS COMPARES VERY FAVORABLY TO OTHER TOWNS WHICH ARE FACING 10-30% PROPERTY TAX INCREASES FOR 1995. TO HOLD OUR BUDGET IN LINE WE WILL NEED THE STATE TO PROVIDE NEWARK WITH A FAIR MUNICIPAL REVITALIZATION AID GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$16,000,000. WE BELIEVE

THAT NEW JERSEY'S LARGEST CITY SHOULD NOT BE RECEIVING THE SMALLEST ALLOCATION. AFTER ALL, WE HOST THE MOST COUNTY, STATE AND FEDERAL TAX EXEMPT PROPERTIES. WHAT WE HAVE UNFORTUNATELY WITNESSED IS THAT CITIES WHO HAVE PADDED THEIR PAYROLLS, REFUSED TO DOWNSIZE AND REFUSED TO CUT COSTS HAVE BEEN REWARDED WITH MORE AID MONEY. IN THE PAST, NEWARK HAS BEEN PENALIZED FOR DOING MORE WITH LESS. WE HAVE BEEN PENALIZED FOR BEING FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE. THIS IS WRONG. IT MUST STOP.

AND I WOULD HOPE THAT GOVERNOR CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN, WHO STATED THAT SHE AGREED WITH ME, WILL DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS GRAVE INJUSTICE. SHOULDN'T GOOD GOVERNMENT BE REWARDED?

IN SUMMARY, OUR CITIZENS WANT GOVERNMENT TO WORK. AND THE EYES OF THE STATE, COUNTY AND NATION ARE UPON US TO MAKE IT WORK.

TO ACHIEVE THIS COMMENDABLE GOAL, I CHALLENGE YOU, EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU IN THIS ROOM TO BECOME AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF YOUR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS; TO CONTINUE TO FORGE PARTNERSHIPS; TO CONTINUE TO DEMAND A CLEANER AND SAFER NEIGHBORHOOD; TO CONTINUE TO REBUILD AND CREATE JOBS; TO CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES; TO CONTINUE TO REACH OUT AND HELP OUR CHILDREN; TO CONTINUE TO DREAM GREAT DREAMS. FOR WITHOUT A DOUBT, WE THE CITIZENS OF NEWARK, WE THE PEOPLE IN THIS MAGNIFICENT ROOM, BY WORKING TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE NEWARK A BETTER CITY. WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

AS I CLOSE, I WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE YOU WITH SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM THE "LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT" PUBLISHED BY THE GREAT AFRICAN

AMERICAN EDUCATOR, MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE, WHO UPON QUESTIONING HERSELF ABOUT THE LEGACY SHE WANTED TO LEAVE, ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WHILE HER WORLDLY POSSESSIONS WERE FEW, HER EXPERIENCES WERE RICH. "FROM THEM" SHE SAID, "I HAVE DISTILLED PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES IN WHICH I BELIEVE FIRMLY, FOR THEY REPRESENT THE MEANING OF MY LIFE'S WORK."

THIS IS PART OF HER LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT:

- A. I LEAVE YOU FAITH BECAUSE FAITH BUILDS. IT IS POSITIVE, HELPFUL AND ENERGIZING.
- B. I LEAVE YOU THE CHALLENGE OF DEVELOPING CONFIDENCE IN ONE ANOTHER; FOR "WE" IS STILL MORE POWERFUL THAN "I."
- C. I LEAVE YOU A THIRST FOR EDUCATION.
- D. I LEAVE YOU A RESPECT FOR THE USES OF POWER.
- E. I LEAVE YOU DIGNITY AND, MOST OF ALL,
- F. I LEAVE YOU LOVE.

THANK YOU. GOD BLESS YOU.

## STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

JANUARY 25, 1995

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF NEWARK'S ON-GOING PROGRESS

- PROJECTED SMALL 3% PROPERTY TAX INCREASE
- NO WATER RATE INCREASE FOR 1995
- CRIME IS DOWN
- NEWARK HOUSING AUTHORITY REMOVED FROM HUD'S MOST TROUBLED LIST
- AUTO THEFT IS DOWN (DUE TO NEW ANTI-THEFT TARGET PROGRAM "TACTICAL AUTO RECOVERY GROUP AND ENFORCEMENT TEAM")
- HOLDING MUNICIPAL COST DOWN BY DOWNSIZING THE WORKFORCE
- A RECORD FOR NEW HOUSING CONSTRUCTION
- A PLANNED RECORD POLICE RECRUIT CLASS (180)
- \$150 MILLION NJPAC UNDER CONSTRUCTION
- NEW CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS (BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD, NJ TRANSIT, LEGAL CENTER, ONE NEWARK CENTER
- STATE-OF-THE-ART ROLLER SKATING RINK TO OPEN
- \$13 MILLION NEW ARCHDIOCESE HEADQUARTERS DESIGNED BY MICHAEL GRAVES
- GROUNDBREAKING FOR A UNITED HOSPITALS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL NEW WING
- PLANNED DEMOLITION OF TWO ADDITIONAL BUILDINGS AT COLUMBUS HOMES
- NEW IRONBOUND SWIMMING POOL APPROVED BY DEPE
- STATE-OF-THE-ART MOVIE THEATERS
- IRONBOUND MINI SOCCER FIELD
- A PLANNED SPORTSPARK AT SPRINGFIELD AVENUE AND BERGEN STREET
- A SCIENCE PARK

- A PROPOSED CONVENTION CENTER
- A RAIL LINK
- A PLANNED SOUTH WARD INDUSTRIAL PARK AND HOUSING PROJECT
- A PROPOSED JOSEPH G. MINISH RIVERFRONT PARK (ADJACENT TO NJPAC)
- \$4 MILLION REHABILITATION OF THE NEWARK MUSEUM'S BALLANTINE HOUSE
- EXPANSION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (NJIT, ECC, RUTGERS, UMDNJ AND THE SETON HALL LAW SCHOOL